

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 181

JULY, 1936

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MONTH BY MONTH

KEEP OUT. We have observed many times that the rank and file of the Labour Movement is more aggressive—advanced if you prefer—than its leadership; certainly more so than the leadership of Trades Unionism. Perhaps that is the natural order of things. But this very fact, and the general tendency to be always “agin the Government” (in our case our own National E.C.) may easily land Local Parties in a false position. It is so in regard to Communist affiliation, and quite a lot of Parties, in the belief that they are making an “advanced” gesture, or proving the soundness of their Socialism, have fallen for the United Front. Well, let us put the position as it appears to us, having a long experience and profound interest in the organisation of the Movement.

FOUND OUT. No one will accuse the Editor of the *Labour Organiser* of want of sympathy with the Left Wing. Indeed, our belief that an understanding of the mind of the Left, and an encouragement of it, is vital to the progress, virility and future of our Movement, may have led to a misunderstanding of our position in this matter. Let us therefore be clear. *No greater disaster could befall Labour Party organisation than the admission of the Communist Party to our ranks.* All Labour Party organisation is an expression of the fundamental doctrine that Socialism can be attained by peaceful means. Once admit to the Party an organised body of men and women who have a fundamental belief in force and minority rule, and confusion will be our lot in every Party and in every constituency. This is what the Communist wants. “United Front Against Fascism” is all bunkum. One cannot to-day successfully fight a foreign or a home Government by

sabotage, insurrection or by pitting force against force. If our Movement is to be committed to a belief in force and the power of the sword, let's have that issue settled first. Meantime don't let your Party fall into the booby trap. Let's be Left by all means; but keep Right in the head.

A WASH-OUT. The wet summer has without a doubt landed many Local Parties in loss and disappointment over their summer events. In some cases quite big functions have suffered. How many Parties, we wonder, insured themselves against loss? As far back as February, 1931, and again in September of the same year, we drew the attention of our readers to the desirability of insurance for loss attributable to weather conditions, and we gave some hints on how to effect this type of insurance. It is, in our opinion, highly injudicious for Labour Parties to risk considerable sums on outdoor events, the success of which is entirely dependent upon the weather. Even in a fine summer there are wet days, and who can forecast which day the sun will shine? If Party money is risked, then insurance ought to be a definite item in the estimated expenses. As we have pointed out, this business may be done at Lloyds, or through certain Insurance Companies. There are different types of insurance; thus, compensation may be provided for each day of a specified number of hours during which rainfall exceeds a stipulated measurement. Alternatively, insurance is obtainable for loss in the event of outdoor functions being abandoned, or in the event of there being a diminution of receipts as a consequence of stipulated adverse weather conditions. Secretaries desirous of effecting this class of insurance should make enquiries of their own Insurance Companies or Brokers, not of us.

A KNOCK-OUT. Those of our readers who see the *New Nation* must have been amazed to note that prominence is given in that paper's columns this month to a demand by one innocent Leaguer for a wholesale reduction in the salaries of Labour Agents, and for the raising of a horde of volunteer blacklegs to be trained by and through the Party's recently extended Training Scheme. While we have every sympathy with the difficulties of editorship, we nevertheless must express amazement that matter of this kind should be allowed to appear in an official Party journal. Would similar publicity be given, we wonder, to a demand for the reduction in salaries of Secretaries of Labour and Trades Union Clubs? And what does the editor suppose would be the result if, instead of attacking the salaries of Labour Agents, he had permitted an attack to be made upon the salaries of Trades Union officials, or the earnings of their members?

WE SPEAK OUT. So far from Labour Agents being overpaid, it is a fact that these posts and the risks attaching to them have in the whole of our experience driven many men of the right type out of the service to the consequent and unknown cost to the Party. Labour Agents have a minimum salary of £5 per week—a sum which is easily surpassed in all manner of walks of life where knowledge and skill of far less quality is demanded, but where pensions and security are in store for the good servant instead of the sad uncertainties which Labour Agents experience. The salaries and conditions of Labour Agents do not, as is alleged, reflect Labour's desire and practice of being a model employer. Agents' wages are often in arrears, uncertainty as to the future is always round the corner, and added to this there is the carping criticism of men like the *New Nation's* correspondent, and of others anxious to split the Agent's job up amongst themselves. If one compares Labour agencies with the teaching profession, one soon begins to appreciate how far short of model employment an Agent's job falls. There is no steady increase or betterment of his position. Rather the reverse. Only last month we had to write of the tendency to treat experienced men as too old at middle age; and there are

no pensions, nor any unemployment pay when out of work. Perhaps the editor of the *New Nation*, who seemed gleeful at publishing the matter complained of, will tell us in his next issue what he would actually like to see. Incidentally, we may inform him that not a fortnight ago we advised a highly qualified man, who desired to serve the Movement, not to throw over his comparatively secure job to take a Labour agency. It was not worth the risk to his wife and family.

"DAILY HERALD" ALL-OUT. Adverting to our comment on the *Daily Herald* in our last issue, we are glad to have received assurances from several quarters that the Local Parties of our correspondents are now taking up the campaign. That is the right spirit, and it should be some encouragement to learn that the *Daily Herald* has maintained an average sale of over two million copies daily for a period of three years. Mr. Maurice Webb, the Labour Movement Relations Officer of the *Daily Herald*, is now busy making contact with Parties throughout the country. We ourselves look for much from the appreciation of the need for further contact with the Movement which Mr. Webb's appointment indicates. Views, criticisms and suggestions which affect the *Daily Herald* will, we gather, be welcomed by Mr. Webb's department. Regarding our own comments in last month's issue, we are happy in having received a letter from the editor of the *Daily Herald* in reply to certain of our comments. Mr. W. H. Stevenson points to the fact that more space is devoted to political matters, reports of speeches by Labour Members of Parliament, etc., than to any pronouncements by Trades Union leaders, as he says will be seen by an analysis of the paper. The editor of the *Daily Herald* also points out that the letter concerning George Lansbury which we criticised was answered a few days later. Anyway, we regard it as a good thing that Labour's own daily is approachable, and sensible to the opinion held in the country. We trust our readers will avail themselves of the facilities for contact mentioned above.

FLAGS OUT. As we go to press the Derby result is to hand. Congratulations to all concerned.

POT POURRI

A useful leaflet for membership campaigning has been published by the Labour Party. The reference is leaflet No. 52, and the price is 6s. per thousand.

* * *

In using the above leaflet, it should be remembered that though a three-fold leaflet, it will be delivered to Secretaries flat, and folding is required. It should be folded with Major Attlee's photograph on the face. The leaflet contains a membership application form, but experienced organisers will know that these forms do not filter back in great numbers. Leaflets distributed with discretion should be followed up by personal contact and invitation. That is the way to get the forms filled.

* * *

Another recent leaflet by the Labour Party is No. 51, price 4s. per thousand, and is entitled "What Fascism Means."

* * *

Copies of the Royton Division Standard have reached us, which are, we think, an improvement on the earlier issues. The paper is now a pretty hefty one with abundance of advertisements, and a guaranteed circulation of 12,000. It is an excellent piece of work.

* * *

The South Worcestershire Labour Parties organised a successful trip to London on July 9th. About 230 persons travelled by special train, afterwards enjoying a conducted char-a-banc trip to places of interest and a first-class tea at Lyons Corner House. The inclusive cost was only 10s. 6d. per head. The event has done the Labour Movement in the Baldwin country a good turn.

* * *

Congratulations to Mr. W. J. Irving, for many years the Secretary and Agent of the North Tottenham Labour Party. Mr. Irving has now been appointed political organiser for the London Co-operative Society, and from the end of July his address will be Craven House, 16, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

* * *

Adverting to our reference in last month's issue to the desirability for those advertising posts in the Labour

Movement extending greater courtesy to applicants, more than one correspondent writes us to say that they have sent stamped envelopes on some occasions, but no reply has been received.

* * *

Among the Galas which this year have *not* been washed out, was one held at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, on June 27th. This function showed what could be done by earnest and energetic officers, putting their backs into the job, and its success is particularly due to Mr. J. W. French, Secretary of the Divisional Party. The Gala was complete with a coronation of the Labour Queen, procession, fancy dresses, children's sport, carnival band contests, grand pageant, concert party, sideshows and, of course, the necessary pill with the jam, in the way of short speeches. The affair was a tip-top success, and there are lessons to be learnt by others from this event.

* * *

Our readers, perhaps, hardly need reminding that the Annual Conference of the Party will be held in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, from Monday, October 5th, to Friday, October 9th. What we think our readers do really need reminding of is the absolute necessity of ensuring that their Parties are represented. Every Divisional Party ought to make a special effort to raise the money to send its delegate. It is little use grumbling at Party decisions unless this effort is made.

* * *

We are interested to note that a Cup was recently awarded to the Wavertree Division in a competition run throughout the Liverpool Divisions for the greatest progress in individual membership during the year.

* * *

Another Liverpool item. We learn that the Liverpool Co-operative Party have just arranged to affiliate their political Divisional Councils to the Liverpool Trades Council and Labour Party. The affiliation agreed upon is £10 per annum per Council.

* * *

A balance sheet of the Liverpool T.C. and L.P. for the year ending 31st March is to hand, and we are pleased to note that the Party has had a successful year, and is more flourishing than for many years past, there being a balance of well over £200 in hand.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

"Labour and War Resistance," by Covenanter. Price sixpence, New Fabian Research Bureau and Victor Gollancz.

This pamphlet, like the curate's egg, is good in parts. It contains an excellent résumé and history of the Labour Party's vacillations in recent years on the question of war resistance. And as a guide to present policy and the heart-searchings which led up to it, the pamphlet is admirable. The writer, of course, desires the Party to repeat its pledge "unflinchingly to support any British Government in all the risks and consequences" of taking part in collective action against a peace-breaker—in plain English, to go to war under certain circumstances. So far as the editor of this journal is concerned, that policy is not acceptable, and we pray for a reversion to the more pacific and sensible one that was the fashion at Hastings. Offer to wage war under certain circumstances, and as sure as night follows day war-mongers will ensure that that cheque is honoured.

The pamphlet takes an orthodox view. It seems to regard war as inevitable. We don't think so. And if it comes *we* are not going to murder or approve murder *under any circumstances!* "Covenanter" suggests that the Labour Party should pledge its members to serve in the armed forces, to perform work of national importance, or to pay taxes in the event of war only if the Government has given guarantees regarding the collective system.

Nice programme, isn't it? Let the war-mongers get going, and there will be precious little regard for any bargain with the Labour Party. This pamphlet seeks to show that black can be made white, and that there is a way of doing it. It won't wash.

Incidentally, we would that some humorist would give us a song "There ain't going to be no war" to the tune of "It ain't going to rain no more." This war talk sickens us. A writer in *Labour*, the official journal of the Movement, actually has the audacity to suggest this month that Britain should have sent forty or fifty thousand well-trained and well-armed men through the Sudan to Abyssinia last December. Thank

goodness, that is not official policy any more than our views are!

* * *

"The New Soviet Constitution." Price one penny. Anglo-Russian Parliamentary Committee, 6/7, Buckingham Street, London, W.C.2.

This is a useful pronouncement on Russia's new Constitution. The Constitution is reprinted in full, and the pamphlet therefore supplies authoritative information for the use of Labour speakers and disputants.

* * *

"The Betrayal of Collective Security" by Rt. Hon. C. R. Attlee, M.P. Price one penny, Labour Publications Department.

This pamphlet is a reprint of the speech made by the leader of the Labour Party in the House of Commons on June 23rd.

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WHY ORGANISE THE CHILDREN ?

Mr. J. Mayston, National Society of the Woodcraft Folk, writes to us as follows:—

The first and most important step towards the emancipation of the working class of this and other imperialist countries is the formation of a strong workers' movement controlling the production of the necessary commodities of life.

Big combines, existing solely for profit, are forced to find new markets abroad, and having found or created them, have used armed forces to protect them. Wars are fought in the defence of capitalist interests or for the expansion of the declining markets.

Until workers realise this and refuse to give financial support to this criminal system by purchasing their daily requirements from capitalist sources, then I am afraid that any chance of better conditions and a decent civilised state worthy of mankind are a long way off.

The large capitalist businesses supply funds to the semi-militarist and imperialist youth organisations that our children might be brought up in an atmosphere of intense love of Empire, flag-wagging, imperialism, power, and militarism.

Millions of children and young people are being educated into this false conception of patriotism, that if the necessity should arise, they will be easily gulled into fighting to defend the interests of capitalists and British imperialists against any other power. under the wicked guise of "King and Country," "Freedom and Democracy."

The Co-operative and Labour Movements have realised the urgent need for the workers' children to be educated into the ways of peace, internationalism, civilisation; to be shown the criminal folly of war and taught the ideals of socialism; to be trained in clear thinking and logic. They have recognised that The Woodcraft Folk is the one organisation that can satisfactorily tackle the question.

The Woodcraft Folk is a democratically constructed movement, open to all sexes, and has no age limit, and seek to train children for a new social order.

Most large provincial towns in England and Scotland, besides the Metropolis of London, have their Woodcraft Fellowships. Are your children enrolled under its banner or —?

Now's your chance to learn more by writing direct to the Secretary, 5, Brightman Road, London, S.W.18.

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Mr. J. W. Kneeshaw, 37, Hill Crescent, Worcester Park, Surrey.

Mr. R. C. Wallis, 1, Glenthorn Grove, Brooklands, Sale, Manchester.

Mrs. E. M. Christie, Co-operative Woman Organiser, Wigston Co-operative Society, Wigston, Nr. Leicester.

Mr. Maurice Webb, 67/68, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

Mr. G. Craddock, 109, Murray Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield, 11.

Mr. Harry Jackson (late Agent, Yeovil), 216, Park Road, Hockley, Birmingham, 18.

SECRETARIES—

HERE'S TO YOU

Does your Party possess an inventory of the various goods and chattels which from time to time are bought for its use? Experience has taught us that Local Party property frequently does not change hands when a change of Secretary takes place. The new Secretary is perhaps not aware of their existence, or they are forgotten, or there is all-round laxity. In our experience we have traced all manner of assets to past Secretaries. The goods have been pretty varied in character. More than once a typewriter and other expensive property was in question. Other chattels have been a duplicator, paper cutter, reams of paper, cupboards, portable desk, election equipment of all sorts, chairs, notice boards, banners, bags, bank books, and even the number at the Co-op. We once knew a Party who could not say whether a certain bicycle belonged to them or not!

May we once again remind our friends who have been wise enough to possess themselves of loudspeakers that these instruments must be used with discretion. Unfortunately, certain Parties have bought equipments which are possessed of far too much volume for normal use. And the temptation is to blaze away at full volume at all times to the distraction and annoyance of many within earshot. This sort of thing is going to lead to early limitation of our present liberties in this respect. Already certain towns—Derby, for instance—prohibit the use of loudspeakers after 9 p.m.

The time just stated is not a suitable one in all areas. There are places where a loudspeaker should only be used in the day time, and there are others where even day time use is inadvisable, because of sleeping workers. The other day we saw a loudspeaker apparatus blazing away at full volume near a maternity home. This sort of thing tempts to trouble. Some users of loudspeakers also fail to appreciate that if the loudspeaker horn is

pointed to the gable end of a building, or similar place, an echo will come back, and quite possibly strike the mike again. If no other position is obtainable, tone down until the echo is reduced to a minimum.

* * *

Persons who have little correspondence, and this is the case with many Local Party Secretaries, often go wrong in expecting extraordinary expedition on the part of the Post Office. We ourselves frequently get letters which the sender fondly hopes will have reached us the day before. A common mistake is to post a letter when going to work in the morning in the expectation that it will be received the same night. It perhaps is not generally realised that there has been no real progress in the dispatch of letters in the last 20 years—rather the reverse. Apart from the knocking off of many deliveries during the war, which services have not been restored, there seems to have been a general slacking off with dispatches. Furthermore, local Post Offices now have a weekly half-holiday, and in many parts collections, and certainly deliveries, are slacked off at this time. In other places, Saturday deliveries are curtailed, and there is, of course, now no Sunday delivery. Our object in mentioning this is to urge correspondents whatever they write about to write in time *and to post early*.

* * *

Speaking of this matter reminds one that speakers sometimes complain of receiving notices or reminders of meetings too late for their convenience; the result is sometimes a telegram regretting inability to attend. This could be avoided if Secretaries would remember that most speakers are busy men, and that speakers have in mind other matters besides the engagement which may loom so big in the minds of local folk. It is important, for instance, for a speaker to know whether his

meeting is in the afternoon or is at 6 p.m. or 8 p.m., and also the time it may conclude, or whether the speaker comes first or second. This may make all the difference between getting to a friend's house, or a comfortable hotel, for the night, or staying in discomfort at a local dosshouse or travelling all night in the train. The exercise of a little imagination will show that if one lets the speaker have the arrangements early it will convenience him in making all sorts of arrangements. We have ourselves known what it is to have a meeting fixed for six o'clock which we expected at eight o'clock, and having to travel without a meal before and after the meeting. It is a good policy whenever a meeting has been fixed ahead to send not one, but two, reminders to a speaker, giving in each case as much information regarding the arrangements as possible. Do not book a hotel for a speaker except at his request: nor lodgings.

That Labour Monthly

The Editor of one of our regular monthlies, on resigning his voluntary post, writes:—

"I am writing to thank you most sincerely for the splendid way in which you have produced the paper, and done all you could to help during the past few years. If ever I move from here and have anything to do with starting another Labour Monthly, I shall certainly see that it is printed at Ripley, if you can manage it. But I am hoping to stay here and to watch the '— Labour News' grow into quite a big fellow.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,
 _____."

(The original letter can be seen by the Editor of the L.O. or any enquirer.)

The foregoing was received in February by

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LET US QUOTE YOU

THE RIGHT TO USE PUBLIC HALLS.

The right of candidates to the free use of elementary schools (extended to Local Government candidates by the L.G. Act, 1933), is, of course, now well known.

Less known is the responsibility of local authorities regarding the letting of their halls and meeting places. The following circular issued by the then Local Government Board to local authorities in 1908 is still intended to be acted upon, and, in fact, is acted upon in most cases. Our reprint of the circular may, however, add to the armoury of our friends in rural areas who may hesitate to demand their rights.

"I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that representations have been made to them as to the difficulty experienced by trade unions, friendly societies, and other similar bodies in finding accommodation for their meetings in existing buildings, except in public houses and other licensed premises. Enquiries have been made of the Board as to the power of the local authorities to render assistance in order to meet this difficulty, and the President lately received a deputation on the subject. The Board direct me to state that, whilst a local authority would not be empowered under the general law to provide buildings for meetings of the bodies referred to, yet where the authority are in possession of a Town Hall or offices provided for their own meetings or for the transaction of their business, it is competent for them to place the accommodation thus provided, when not required for their own purposes, at the services of any of these bodies on terms which may enable them to have a temporary use of the premises without expense to the local authority. The Board are desirous of bringing this matter under the notice of the local authorities. They cannot but feel that it is very undesirable that the bodies in question should be compelled to hold their meetings on licensed premises, especially when it is remembered that the business transacted at these meetings often necessitates the presence of women and children for a considerable time. The temptations and the evil results arising from this state of things are well known to local

(Concluded on page 133)

THE RURAL CAMPAIGN

PLAN AND PERFORMANCE AT NORTH BUCKS.

As our readers have been informed, the Labour Party is this year conducting a special campaign in a selected number of rural constituencies. The purpose of the campaign is to secure intensive propaganda for Labour's policy on the countryside, recruitment of individual members, the establishment of new Local Parties and the strengthening of Trades Union Branches.

The resources of the Party do not permit more than the selected number of constituencies being dealt with this year, but these number over 30. Details of the campaign were communicated some time ago to the constituencies concerned, and reports of the venture are now coming in.

We have pleasure in printing below a report of a fortnight's campaign in North Bucks, which has been kindly sent to us by the Secretary, Mr. H. Wickham, of 29, Jersey Road, Wolverton, Bucks.

This excellent recital affords an insight into successful methods for running a rural campaign, such methods being equally suitable in other places where the ordinary propagandists are serving a constituency. Bucks is out to get 2,500 to 3,000 individual members this year. There is the will to do it, and certainly our friends appear to be on the right road.

REPORT OF AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN—NORTH BUCKS

Preparations.

A special Divisional Agricultural Committee was set up. This Committee took a survey of the constituency and picked out the areas to be visited on the following grounds:

- (a) Villages where it might be possible to set up either Local Parties or Polling Committees.
- (b) Villages where no really active contact with the Party was in existence and where mass effort was the only method to establish this.

Having set out the plan of campaign we then proceeded to set up four Agricultural Sub-Committees from the

strongest Local Parties in the area to be visited who undertook the responsibility of distributing literature and the handbills for the meeting.

Where we had contact the Organiser addressed a special circular to these comrades and followed this up with a personal visit. As a result in some cases local chairman was found and in all others assistance was given in literature distribution, etc.

A meeting was arranged between the Area Organiser of the Agricultural Workers' Union and as a result we were able to secure additional speakers and in addition the Organiser was able to put us in touch with some of his members in the villages we were to visit.

The week prior to the campaign the Divisional Committee, working with the Organiser on a roster, toured every village with the loudspeaker equipment, announcing meetings and distributing literature at every house.

Posters were also put up on trees near every village.

Meetings.

Meetings were held at the following places with the results as stated:

CHEDDINGTON.—Fair attendance, good meeting.

IVINGHOE.—Excellent meeting.

SOULBURY.—Nearly all village present. Best meeting yet held.

WING.—Good meeting, although local cricket match had some effect on attendance.

STEWKLEY.—A fine meeting. Found a great deal of support.

SWANBOURNE.—Attendance fair. Intimidation rampant.

DRAYTON PARSLow.—Good meeting. Found a number of supporters.

MURSLEY.—Fair attendance. Found a number of supporters.

GREAT HORWOOD.—Smallest meeting of campaign. But better than previous meetings in village. Intimidation here.

WINSLOW.—Good meeting. Secured names of several people willing to help quietly.

TWYFORD.—A fine meeting. Found many supporters.

BRILL.—Splendid meeting.

OAKLEY.—Best meeting yet held in village.

MARSH GIBBON.—Small meeting. Intimidation here.

ASHENDON.—Nearly all village present. Found several comrades who were willing to give active support.

EDGCOTT.—Fair meeting, though village is very scattered.

GRENDON UNDERWOOD.—Excellent meeting. Found supporters here after having failed at each previous attempt.

LONG CRENDON.—Fair meeting. People seem afraid.

CHEARSLEY. — Splendid meeting. Several supporters came forward.

ICKFORD.—Good meeting. Supporters found.

SHABBINGTON.—Good meeting. Supporters found.

WORMINGHALL.—Good meeting. Supporters found.

Conference.

The conference at Steeple Claydon was attended by over 60 delegates, many of whom were agricultural workers from all parts of the Division. This was made possible by the introduction of a scheme to take two from each of the villages in the area free of cost. The first occasion on which the D.L.P. attempted to hold a conference at Steeple Claydon it was an immense success. Dr. Addison gave a splendid outline of the policy of the Party in relation to agriculture. Good discussion and many questions. (Circular re conference enclosed.)

Demonstration.

The demonstration held at Steeple Claydon in the evening was a very fine one. Well attended, and several persons offered support after the meeting.

Speakers.

The following speakers gave assistance:

Comrade Lunnon, North Bucks; Comrade Old, North Bucks; Comrade Bateson, North Bucks; Comrade Prosser, North Bucks; Comrade Parker, North Bucks; Mrs. Tootill, North Bucks; Mrs. Hilton, North Bucks; Comrade Richardson, Comrade Bell-chambers, North Bucks.

National Speakers.

Comrade Knowles. An excellent speaker and undoubtedly the best rural area speaker we had.

Comrade Wise. A fine agricultural speaker.

Comrade J. Mills. Gave fine service. Real good propagandist.

Union Speakers.

Comrade Holness. Agricultural Workers' Organiser.

Mrs. Uzzel, Oxford.

Transport.

The transport arrangements were in the hands of Comrade Godfrey, to whom credit is due for the fact that all meetings kept well to time-table. Cars were also loaned by Comrades Bateson, Prosser, Holness, Lunnon, Higby, and assistance was given by Comrade Inwood in driving.

Literature.

A very large quantity of literature was distributed, but it was found that the only literature which would sell was the broadsheet "What Socialism Means To You," and this was undoubtedly due to the pictorial nature of the sheet.

We feel sure that much better response will be found to literature if it is more pictorial, and especially appeal for more pictorial work in the new *Country Folk*.

It was found that people did not respond to an appeal to join the Party, and did not return the slips on the membership leaflets issued by Head Office.

We therefore had printed special slips (a copy of which is printed below). These were distributed at all meetings and an appeal made by the Organiser at the close of the meeting.

So far 50 completed forms have been returned and we are now following up with a view to membership.

We recommend this to Head Office as worthy of consideration as to the advisability of printing this for Party use.

General Results.

The general result of the Campaign has been to make possible the establishment of at least three more Local Parties and to follow up and set up correspondents and Polling Committees in most of the villages visited.

Future Work.

The Agricultural Committee will continue the work started by the Campaign right through the summer months.

It is then our intention to begin at the end of September the holding of a concert meeting in every one of the villages touched with the intention of

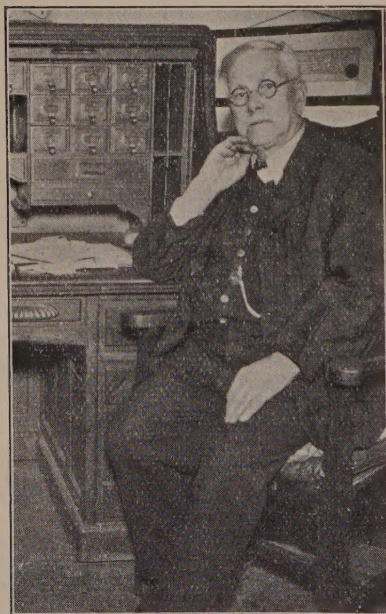
MR. R. MONTFORD, J.P.

The majority of our readers will recognise the photograph below as that of one of the most indefatigable workers in the Labour Cause.

Mr. Richard Montford, J.P., is one of the marvellous old guard of the Movement who yet keep young, and show an astounding activity in our Cause. Dick Montford has seen more electoral battles than most of us, and he has acted as election agent and as Organising Secretary in a number of constituencies.

For many years Mr. Montford has been the Secretary of the London and Near Counties District of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents, from which post he has recently retired, although he retains the financial secretaryship of that important district.

Mr. Montford's partial retirement was recently made the occasion of a presentation by his colleagues as a tangible recognition of the devoted service he had rendered to the Union. The presentation took the form of an illuminated address, and (Mr. Montford's own choice) of a handsome desk, a glimpse of which is caught in the photograph. The desk certainly does not look like retirement.



Mr. Montford, who now resides at Wellingborough, was for many years connected with the Borough of Islington. He was for three years Deputy Mayor of this important Borough, and still retains certain responsible offices conferred upon him while acting in the latter capacity.

Our readers will join with us in wishing long life and happiness to our valiant old comrade.

Mr. W. Nichol, of Mitcham, writes: "I consider the *Labour Organiser* to be an invaluable asset to Party officers, and I never lose an opportunity to say so."

* * *

The following changes of Secretaries have taken place in the Agents' Union: Midlands—New Secretary, Mr. J. T. Baxter, 1393, Pershore Road, Stirchley, Birmingham. London and Near Counties—New Secretary, Mr. R. Stanton, 14a, Graham Road, Dalston, London, E.8. Mr. R. Montford, J.P., retains the office of Contribution Secretary.

(Concluded from previous page)

attempting to form some local organisation.

SPECIMEN OF SLIP REFERRED TO ABOVE

This meeting is being addressed by speakers for the Labour Party, who hope they have interested you.

The message they give you is part of the Official Policy of the Labour Party.

If you have been interested and would like to hear more of our work or if you are already a supporter of the Labour Party we invite you to fill in your name below. We will then arrange to communicate further with you.

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LABOUR PARTY DIRECTORY

(For key, see previous months' issues.)

CORRECTIONS REGISTERED IN OUR MARCH ISSUE

D4	F50	F101	D141	B174	G216	E263/5	C330	C403	A451	H507	J564
D6	F51	C104	D143	B182/4	G220	E270	F341	B407	A456	J516	J568
B16	F55	D109	B149	B184	E227	E277	C362	C415	H475	J542	J572
B24	A61	D113	B152	B193	E230	D283	G367	A433	H480	J543	J574
C36	G78	D116	B155	B196	E236	D299	G368	A437	H482	J551	K584
C44	G82	D127	B162	B201	E241	G300	D381	A440/	H484	J552	K585/6
F48	G92	D131	B163	C209	E257	G303	D389	446	H503	J554	
F49	G94	D138	B165	G213	E259	A318A	C398	A441	H506	J563	

CORRECTIONS REGISTERED IN OUR APRIL ISSUE

C36	G85	B171	E226/27	E249	G302	C323	D378	B407	A448	H482
F57	D115	G213	E243	E263	C310	C330	D384	C414	A454	H487
G83	B166/175	G218	E247	E264	A313	D372	C397	A445	A471	J570

CORRECTIONS REGISTERED IN OUR MAY ISSUE

G12	G81	G90	C107	B196	C211	E245	E265	A318A	D333	F340	C348	C398	A422
A427	A440/446	A471	H506	J512	J528	J559							

CORRECTIONS REGISTERED IN OUR JUNE ISSUE

F28	B33	F51	F53	B153	B162	C207	E242/243	E246	E255	E279	E280	D293	D296	
D297	F342	C357	D372	A429	A448	A471	H507	J513	J518	J523	J545	J558	J566	J572

CORRECTIONS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Index Description

No.	tion	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
D7	CD	Windsor D.L.P.	Mr. S. R. SOUTH, The Lodge, Sunninghill Park, Ascot, Berks.
G91	CD	Epping D.L.P.	Mr. B. G. PLATTEN, 7, Forest View Rd., Loughton, Essex.
G126	CD	Huntingdon D.L.P.	Coun. E. W. PEAKE, "Birchfield," Fletton Avenue, Peterborough, Northants.
D129	SB	Bromley D.L.P.	Mr. F. W. KNIGHT, J.P., 20, Sunray Avenue, Bromley, Kent.
B150	SB	Bootle T.C. & L.P.	Ald. J. HAWORTH, J.P., 4, Grange Rd. West, Vicars Cross, Chester.
B180	SB	Rossendale D.L.P.	Messrs. J. HAMER & R. DRIVER, 56, Bank St., Rawtenstall, Rossendale.
G213	SB	Grimsby D.L.P.	Mr. T. SLEEMAN, 16, Fairfax Rd., Grimsby, Lincs.
E249	BD	Islington West D.L.P.	Mr. A. EVANS, 318, Caledonian Rd., London, N.1.
E252/55	DB	Lambeth Bow L.P. & T.C.	Mr. L. C. BRIND, 100, Knollys Rd., Streatham, London, S.W.16.
E273	SB	Stoke Newington T.C. & L.P.	Mrs. E. V. M. BROWNING, 229, Albion Rd., London, N.16.
E279	BD	Westminster (St. Georges) D.L.P.	Mr. F. J. WADSWORTH, 123, Lupus St., Westminster, London, S.W.1.
F344	CD	Yeovil D.L.P.	Mr. A. E. LITTLE, 55, Mudford Rd., Yeovil, Somerset.

Index Descrip-

<i>No. tion</i>	<i>Name of Organisation</i>	<i>Present Secretary and Address</i>
C415 CD	Evesham D.L.P.	Mr. H. DRINKWATER, Fernhill Heath, Worcester,
A431/36 DB	Leeds City L.P.	Mr. A. L. WILLIAMS, 9, Queen Square, Leeds, 2, Yorks.
A460 CD	Elland D.L.P.	Mr. W. WHITELEY, 44, Bradford Rd., Brighouse, Yorks.
H477 CD	Cardiganshire D.L.P.	Mr. T. I. NICHOLAS, Glasgoed, Elmtree Avenue, Aberystwyth, Cardigans.
J548 BD	St. Rollox D.L.P.	Mr. T. ANDERSON, 38, St. Clair St., Glasgow, N.W.
J553 CD	Coatbridge & Airdrie D.L.P.	Mr. D. MCATEER, 25, Mack St., Airdrie, Lanarks.
J568 CD	Moray & Navin D.L.P.	Mr. W. SIMPSON, 81, Pluscarden Rd., Elgin, Morayshire.

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES ENDORSED BY N.E.C.

24th June, 1936.

- BEDS:** Bedford.—Mr. Norman Mickle, 37, Bromham Road, Bedford.
- CHESHIRE:** Crewe.—Mr. J. W. Bowen, 18, Tichwell Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.18.
- DORSET:** South.—Mr. Arthur Wiltshire, Melcombe Regis, Decies Road, Parkstone, Dorset.
- DURHAM:** Sunderland.—Mr. Joseph Hoy, 12, Dunmore Avenue, Fulwell, Sunderland.
- ESSEX:** East Leyton.—Mr. Albert E. Beckervaise, 347, Cannhall Road, E.11.
- LINCS:** Grantham.—Mr. M. W. Moore, Claypole, Newark, Notts.
- NORTHUMBERLAND:** Wansbeck. — Mr. Wm. MacLean, 35, North View, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland.
- WILTS:** Chippenham.—Mr. H. F. Chilcott, Tanifried, 11, Nore Marsh Road, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.
- LANCS:** Blackburn.—Mr. James Bell, Weavers' Office, Bartlam Place, Oldham, Lancs.
- WALES.**
- BRECON & RADNOR.**—Dr. Haden Guest, 45, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

Candidature Endorsed by N.E.C. 22nd April, 1936.

- ESSEX:** Walthamstow, East.—Mr. H. W. Wallace, 31, Uffington Road, West Norwood, S.E.27.

Candidature Withdrawn.

- BUCKS:** Aylesbury.—Mr. Eric Shearer.

LABOUR AGENTS

ADDITION AND CORRECTIONS.

- LONDON:** Hackney South.—Mr. A. E. Fenna, 126, Wick Rd., London, E.9.
- YORKS:** Leeds City L.P.—Mr. A. L. Williams, 9, Queen Square, Leeds, Yorks.
- Elland.—Mr. W. Whiteley, 44, Bradford Rd., Brighouse, Yorks.

DELETIONS.

- LANCS:** Rossendale.—Mr. J. Worthy, 56, Bank St., Rawtenstall, Rossendale, Lancs.
- MIDDLESEX:** Twickenham. — Mr. J. Stout, 50 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex.
- SOMERSET:** Frome.—Mr. A. G. Salmon, High Littleton, Bristol, Glos.
- GLAMORGAN:** Cardiff South.—Mr. A. J. Herbert, 101, Corporation Rd., Cardiff, Glam.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

- Mr. J. Stout has been appointed Organising Secretary to the Portsea Island Co-operative Party. Address: Co-operative Party Offices, Nancy Rd., Fratton, Portsmouth.

(Concluded from page 127)

authorities . . . and the Board trust that the local authorities will be willing to allow the use of their buildings for the purpose of the meetings referred to where the circumstances admit of their so doing. It will be necessary that arrangements should be made to prevent any expense from falling on the local authority, but the Board do not apprehend that there will be any difficulty in this being done. Usually no consent on the part of the Board will be requisite to the use of the buildings for the purposes mentioned."

New Feature

OUR MIND METER

Below are to be found five statements. Some of these statements are correct, others are wrong. As a test to your knowledge or memory, please write down on paper your answers to these questions then refer to foot of this page. It is not necessary for the reader to write a long argumentative answer. The words "right" or "wrong" will mostly serve as a test of your knowledge.

1. Membership of the Council is not necessary in the case of a person elected to be Mayor of a Borough or Chairman of a District Council. Any inhabitant of the area may be so elected.

2. Clergymen and dissenting Ministers of Religion may now be elected to a Borough Council by virtue of the Ministers of Religion (Removal of Disqualification) Act, 1925.

3. "From Serfdom to Socialism" was one of the finest propaganda books.

Better even than "Merrie England" by the same author.

4. Plural voting lost Labour dozens of seats at the last election. Thank goodness, the tendency of recent legislation is to tackle this evil.

5. The exemption for small lotteries and private lotteries given by the Betting Act of 1934 makes it possible to run a legal draw amongst the members of our Local Party.

MIND METER : ANSWERS

1. The first statement is correct, but the second one is incorrect. The Mayor or Chairman of a District Council need not be a member of the Council to be qualified for election, but in each case he or she must be qualified to be elected to the Council.

2. The statement is correct that Clergymen and Ministers of Religion may now be elected to Borough (and to District) Councils, but the Act named has been repealed, there being no longer any necessity for its continuance. Disqualification of Clergymen and Ministers of Religion was contained in Section 12 (1) (b) of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882. The Act of 1925 was passed to remedy that disqualification. Repeal, however, has been the fate of Section 12, and the special Act of Parliament, being no longer necessary, has gone with it.

3. Wrong. "From Serfdom to Socialism" was written by Keir Hardie. It was certainly a fine propaganda book, and contained one of the best

statements of the case for Socialism ever written. "Merrie England," of course, was written by Robert Blatchford. Mrs. Snowden also wrote a book in the same series as Hardie, the authorship of which she would not perhaps be proud of to-day.

4. We think both statements are wrong. Plural voting will certainly have diminished Labour's chances in a lot of seats, but only in a very few of them could it truthfully be said that this was the factor which decided the issue. The evil is greatest in business and shopping centres. We agree the problem is a grave one, and that plural voting has no moral justification. It should be abolished. Regarding recent legislation it is true that in 1918 multiple voting was curtailed and by that Act no person may now exercise more than two votes at a General Election. But the 1928 Act which purported to make men's and women's franchises identical had the incidental effect of qualifying a spouse for the other's business premises. This Act

(Concluded on page 136)

"SEPARATIST ORGANISATIONS"

A REPLY TO JACK CUTTER

By BEN GREENE, Secy. Home Counties Labour Association

It is a pity that such an excellent paper as the "Labour Organiser" should have been misled into publishing such a misinformed article by Jack Cutter dealing with the above Association under the title of "Separatist Organisations."

The article states that the Association has just held its annual meeting. In point of fact this meeting was held over six months ago, last January. Far from being two months too late in demanding financial support for the rural backward areas, we were actually putting forward this demand four months before any announcement of the Development Fund had been made by Head Office and in this respect we could claim that our activities bore good and early fruit.

It is worth noting that this annual meeting was the first meeting of the Association, and it represented the first opportunity that Divisional Parties have had of meeting each other and formulating a line of co-operative action in furthering the Labour and Socialist cause. If Jack Cutter had been in contact with the Association he would be surprised at the progress we have made along the lines which he seems to think so desirable.

For him to say that local Parties are being misled into a belief that by surrendering their "precious right of direct approach to Conference" is absolutely untrue. Not only is this so-called precious right practically without any value whatever, but the Association, far from wanting Parties to surrender this shadowy privilege, aims at making it a substantial factor in the life of the Labour Party and thus remedy the serious defect which now exists in the lack of contact between local organisation and the Party as a whole.

It may or may not be desirable to bring constituency Parties together into regional organisations whereby they can by democratic means mutually assist each other and express and formulate their considered opinions on matters affecting Party organisation and activities. Mr. Jack Cutter is entitled to his opinion that it is undesir-

able. But 30 to 40 Parties in the Home Counties area think it is desirable and have therefore formed such an organisation. There are Parties in other parts of the country who also feel that regional organisation has become a crying need in the Labour Party and are proceeding to form their own organisations. But what are we to make of the official Party which condemns these regional organisations in England but is actually urging and encouraging their creation in Scotland?

In Scotland the official Party urges members "to throw your whole weight into a great development campaign for which they submit the following suggestions:—

(1) Until such time as constituencies can be self-supporting Scotland can be developed only by grouping constituencies so that the strong ones can help the weak.

(2) This should be done by grouping constituencies with large towns as the appropriate centre . . ."

In Scotland these area organisations are being urged on the grounds that "in the years ahead our development will move on progressive and scientific lines." In England the precisely same grouping of constituency Parties is condemned as being "unable to give effective assistance to constituency Parties."

In conclusion, there is most emphatically no stepping on the toes of County Federations in England any more than in Scotland and no more than on Central Labour Parties. Federations are essentially there for local government purposes and if they had been given a name and constitution corresponding to central Parties their true function should have been apparent to all. One of the intentions of the Association will at some future date be to see what steps can be taken by the Party to make these Federations real live organisations so they can function properly in the very important field of their activities.

The first and foremost object of the Association is to bring the rank and file of the Labour Parties into the life of the Labour Party as a whole and make it that invincible democratic

instrument to achieve our great democratic ends. If Mr. Cutter has suggestions for achieving these ends by other and better means, I hope he will let us know what they are.

[We gladly give Mr. Greene the opportunity to reply to Jack Cutter. We, however, take exception to the suggestion that the "L.O." was "misled" into publishing Jack Cutter's articles, and we equally take exception to other correspondents who have sought to vent on the editor the spleen intended for Jack Cutter.

Jack Cutter's article on separatist organisations was sent to us in the ordinary way, and published without comment. Jack Cutter is an old and valued contributor, who knows what he is talking about, and ordinarily commands the approval of 99 per cent. of our readers. Ben Greene, and other correspondents, would apparently desire us to exercise a censorship over contributors and never publish that which might offend someone. Well, the "Labour Organiser" is not run that way. We do not believe in the "suppress Press," and we decline to imitate it.

So far as the article in question is concerned, Jack Cutter expressed his own views, but now that the matter is raised, and that neither Jack Cutter nor Ben Greene has mentioned it, our readers might be reminded that the Labour Party has expressed disapproval of the organisation named. Our article was not published with that fact in view, though we cannot allow Mr. Greene to get away with the pretence that the type of organisation urged for Scotland is similar to that which he sponsors. After all, it is one thing to group constituencies round large towns, and quite another to set up something which is alleged to cover 30 or 40 Parties in one, two or three of the Labour Party's areas.

Our readers will, of course, come to their own judgment on the cases presented to them for and against.—Ed., "Labour Organiser."]

HELD OVER

Some of our usual features and several special articles are unavoidably held over till next month owing to pressure on our space.

(Concluded from page 134)

actually brought thousands of fresh plural voters into being.

* * *

5. This statement may be true, but there are substantial limitations concerning both small lotteries and private lotteries. Small lotteries are referred to in Section 23 of the Act named, and they are lotteries associated with entertainments, and must be wholly confined to the persons attending and the premises on which the entertainment takes place. Private lotteries would apply to members of one society, and to persons who work or reside all on the same premises. But the Act does not make these lotteries legal. It merely says they are not unlawful, and the obstacle remains that a gaming contract is not enforceable and that prizes cannot be recovered in the Courts. This is not merely a distinction without being a difference, but there are other strict conditions to be observed; for instance, no tickets in a lottery may be sent through the post, nor given to ticket sellers by way of reward.

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LOOK AFTER PARTY ASSETS

In another part of this issue we draw attention to the occasional loss of Local Party properties, arising out of secretarial changes. The laxity of members is unfortunately responsible in some cases for worse happenings. We do not refer to occasional defalcations and the deliberate retention of money by ex-officers, which events fortunately are very rare.

The occurrences we wish to draw attention to are also very rare, but still they happen, and we refer now to loss and confusion of banking accounts.

A year or two ago we gave some examples of money and assets being found in the possession of various people, whose only title to them was the fact that their Party had disappeared. As stated then, the sums involved were, in certain cases, considerable, and in none of the examples given had anybody thought of the simple course of forwarding the assets to Head Office.

We quoted a rule, given again below, which, in the case of Local Parties, would at any rate have ensured that on their demise or winding up assets would automatically revert to the constituency Party. We sometimes wonder what is the aggregate amount of Labour money lying idle in the banks. Perhaps not a great sum but anyway one that would be best in the possession of our Parties. Evidence repeatedly comes to hand of monies being banked and left there. In some cases new officers do not know the existence of a banking account and actually open another one.

Quite recently, in investigating the affairs of a certain Party, we came across two Bank Pass Books. It was impossible to get from the Bank a statement of the position of these accounts without obtaining several signatures, some of them of past officers. We obtained these only to find that while one account showed a balance the other one had been closed—who drew the balance isn't quite clear.

Correspondence resulted in the discovery of yet a third account, which is apparently the account of a Local Party since defunct. The Bank now requires the signature of some officer

of that old Party before even disclosing whether there is a balance or no. This position could not arise had the rule we have advocated been embodied in the constituency Party's rules.

But this is not the whole story. Three other Bank books have been found, two of them being deposit accounts, and all three showing balances. Enquiries show that these three accounts are the property of yet another Local Party, which is apparently not aware of its wealth, for it has not paid any dues to its Divisional Party for a long time.

We have quoted an extreme case, but it is notorious that Local Parties come and go, and that somebody handles the money belonging to these bodies. It is a profound reflection on our Movement if the pennies of the people are collected and not properly accounted for. Our object in raising the matter is to suggest means for the prevention of such happenings.

In the first place, care ought to be taken when an officer retires that everything belonging to the Party is collected by the new Secretary, and that a full and proper statement of accounts is received. We know that sometimes a retiring Secretary does not turn up to any further meetings for some time, but this should not prevent the Party from being satisfied that everything is in order, and that properties and monies have been handed over. There ought to be an audit with every change of officer.

Rules ought also to say in a clear and unambiguous manner, that any property held by any Local Parties, Sections or Committees is in the last resort the property of the parent organisation. This said and there can be no challenge to the claim of the Divisional Party when an unfortunate break-up takes place.

The rule we advise disposes of the quibbles that can be raised by a dishonest ex-officer—quibbles which we know have been raised, and raised only recently. In the case we have in mind had the Divisional Party accepted the advice tendered to them two years ago, £30 now wrongly held in local hands would have been in their own possession.

(Concluded on page 140)



QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

Polling Hours: Local Elections

Question. Will you please tell me whether there is any means whereby we can secure an extension of hours in a District Council by-election. We want to poll to 9 p.m.?

Answer. The hours of polling in District Council elections are not definitely laid down by an Act of Parliament or rules thereunder in the same way as are the hours for Parliamentary Elections. We advise our questioner to at once seek information as to what Order has been made in his county by the County Council respecting the hours of polling; for to the County Council is delegated the duty of 'fixing the hour of polling by general or special order. A wide discretion is given in the matter "so however that the poll shall always be open between the hour of six and eight in the evening." It is conceivable that an Order exists extending the poll to 9 p.m., but such Order is very unlikely. Assuming no Order has been made by the County Council, the matter is governed by custom and the hours will be the same as those at the last ordinary election of Urban Councils.

More Polling Stations

Question. I am asked by our Party to write to you for information as to the way we can get more polling stations. We are very badly situated in this Division, some of our people having to walk two or three miles to the poll. Is not there some provision in the Act governing elections which enables us to make complaint and get an alteration?

Answer. This matter has been dealt with several times in past issues, but for the benefit of new readers we may point out that the matter is covered

by Section 31 (2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1918. By this section either a local authority (which may mean a Parish Council, a Rural or Urban District Council) or not less than 30 electors may make a representation to the Home Office that the polling districts or polling places do not meet the reasonable requirements of the electors. The Home Office may, if they think fit, direct the Council, whose duty it is to divide the constituency into polling districts to make such alterations as the Board thinks necessary. Power is given to the Home Office to make the alteration themselves in the case of an obdurate authority.

We have, however, advised that in most cases it is better to proceed in the first place by friendly approach to the authorities responsible. The political agents of the other Parties will generally be found agreeable to join in representations where a real grievance exists. If this course does not prove satisfactory, resolutions from Parish Councils, or the District Councils, might be sent in to the County Council or in the case of a Borough public meetings might be asked to pass resolutions. At any rate, some degree of persuasion followed or accompanied by agitation should be tried before approaching the Home Office.

A Suspended Delegate

Question. A question of constitutional procedure has arisen about which I should be glad of your guidance.

—, who was formerly a member of ours, opposed the Party candidate in last year's Municipal elections, having the year previously, in the opinion of the Party, failed in his duty

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as a colleague to our other nominee. He has asked for readmission into Party membership, and the Party, to provide for such cases, passed a resolution that Collectors should submit names of erstwhile members applying for readmission, to the Executive for decision. Our Executive eventually agreed to accept —, but the General Meeting referred the matter back, and the Executive placed him under a three months' ban to try and make him appreciate the position.

He is a member of the — Union, who are affiliated to the Divisional Party, and he is one of their delegates to that body. They now claim that — is not only entitled to attend D.L.P. meetings on their behalf, but also Local Party meetings. I challenge the equity of this. It is bad enough for Local Party delegates who pay both their political and individual membership fees to have the same voting power as T.U. delegates only, but to claim admittance to a Party built up on individual membership is the last straw. Out of this Trade Union's membership of something over 100 I do not think we have half-a-dozen members, and yet they have the effrontery to claim advantages which I consider to exceed those laid down by the constitution.

Answer. We know very little of the merits of the case our friend mentions, but it is a fundamental rule of the Party that every delegate to a local organisation must individually accept and conform to the constitution, programme, principles and policy of the Labour Party, and of the Divisional and Local Party. No Party is completely in the hands of its affiliated organisations. Delegates are only acceptable or eligible in so far as they fill the above requirements. Where a delegate is objected to on the grounds named it is generally undesirable to leave the matter at merely refusing admission. It is proper to communicate with the affiliated organisation stating the reason why the delegate is not acceptable to the Party, and giving opportunity for the appointment of another delegate.

Alderman as Council Candidate

Question. In the forthcoming council election a Conservative Alderman is announced as a candidate.

We are of opinion that as an Alderman he is ineligible to stand and that he must resign in order to become a candidate.

Could you kindly let me know if our contention is correct?

Answer. We answered this query by post some time ago, but as the matter may be of interest to others we will deal with same again here.

The question whether an Alderman may become a candidate for the office of Councillor is not without difficulty, and the matter is in doubt. In recent years it has generally been accepted that an Alderman may be elected as a Councillor, his seat becoming vacant upon acceptance of his new office.

The Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, and now the Local Government Act, 1933, laid down that if a Councillor was elected and accepted the office of Alderman he vacated his office as Councillor. There is no similar provision in the Act covering the case of an Alderman becoming a Councillor, but there has been a legal decision on the question which stands good to-day, and upon which the above answer is based.

(Concluded from page 137)

The following additional rule has been printed twice in past issues (as recently as March, 1935), but it so completely covers the points at issue that we make no apology for reprinting.

"The accounts of the Party shall be kept in the form approved by the Party, and all funds, books or other property in the hands of any Committee or Section shall be, and at all times remain, the property of the ——— Labour Party, and shall be returned to the officers appointed as the Party may direct. On any Committee or Section becoming defunct, or upon the same being expelled or dissolved by the Party, the whole of the property or assets in the hands of such Committee or Section shall be handed over to the Party forthwith."